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## Environmental Quality in Urban Settlement: The Role of Local Community Association in East Semarang Sub-District

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### Abstract

Society is one of the influential stakeholders in shaping the quality of neighborhoods. Efforts to improve the quality of the environment with the involvement of community empowerment is one of the improvement process, extracting local resources, as well as giving a greater role to the public. This role can be seen from handling environment, such as village improvement, renovation and improvement of the quality environment. Local institutions communities in Indonesia known as the Neighborhood Unit (Rukun Tetangga called RT) drives the self-help community play a role in changes in the quality of residential environment. Priority is determined by the needs of the community programs that are approved by members. Kelurahan Karangturi implement environmental programs larger than the other program components. This paper is a quantitative approach with variable formulation and implementation role of local institutions in the quality of residential neighborhoods in the region in three urban locations. While in the Kelurahan Bugangan greater economic program. In the Kelurahan Kemijen, also dominates the implementation of environmental improvements. The role of local institutions as a stimulant and a reflection of the CBD (Community Base Development) with a group of people who will have a sense of community are good, such as the ability to take care of its interests in a responsible manner, free to choose and express their opinions, actively participate in the common interest, and community services closer to the interests of society itself. It is expected that for sustainability, local institutions capable of more optimal synergy with the main stakeholders in monitoring the implementation of environmental quality improvement, especially after the improvement is implemented.

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## 1. Introduction

Society is one of the influential stakeholders in shaping the quality of neighborhoods. Efforts to improve the quality of the environment with the involvement of community empowerment is one of the improvement process, extracting local resources, as well as giving a greater role to the public.

This role can be seen from handling the environment, such as renovation and improvement of the neighborhood. Local institutions in communities in Indonesia known as the Neighborhood (RT) drives the self-help community play a role in changes in the quality of residential environment. Benefit local institutions not only administrative, but also provide an alternative to the public to influence their neighborhoods. It is also recognized by the local association that communities also depend on these local institutions as social media to accommodate the planning activities performed by the various parties in the residential environment.

The existence of this local association seems not enough to overcome the problems in the housing micro scope. This is what makes the central government issued a community development strategy to address the problem of poverty and its effects continue to neighborhoods. This strategy is applied to give the public the opportunity to participate directly in the improvement of their neighborhoods as a form of planning bottom up. Local institutions that emerged from the community empowerment strategy is a tool that connects the needs of society and the government as a service provider.

East Semarang districts as one of the downtown area with the development of various activities that not only the settlements but other supporting facilities. Population density and function of this activity would impact on neighborhoods. One aspect that also affect this condition is the role of local institutions that continuously assist and facilitate the activities of the community. As for looking at the role of local institutions in the neighborhoods, the focus of research directed at the Eastern District Semarang covering three villages namely Kelurahan Karangturi, Bugangan, and Kemijen. Based on geographical perspective, the function of the area, as well as the potential and problems in the kelurahan Karangturi, Bugangan and Kemijen assumed to represent the different condition of neighborhoods of East Semarang. Local institutions that contribute to the community in East Semarang namely the existence of RT. Although with a different base formation, several RT has been assisting people in improving neighborhoods with problems that are also different focus. Therefore, the role and implementation that have been conducted by the local association needs to be studied to see the composition of its contribution to environmental quality conditions of the settlement.

## 2. Purpose and Methods

Understanding local institutions described, is a complex organization that involves values and behaviors that take place at any time in order to achieve social value. Local institutions or local organization is defined as a group formed to represent the interests of the community members in development activities in the residential level. Local institutions at the neighborhood level, covering sub-units or smaller units such as kelurahans, RW or RT. The RT activity is related to the social, economic, and physical environment. These areas is essential that a common problem that occurs in the community and is usually associated with poverty and environmental degradation. Establishment of RT is a form of liaison for households who have difficulty in accessing their need to earn a decent living settlements. RT existence will provide simultaneous impact for the benefit of directly by the people. Benefits derived from the existence of this local association leads to a lot of positive things for the community (UNESCAP and UN-HABITAT, 2008). In this case, the public will be assisted in accessing formal and informal sources of financing. This will support the community development process is more through and comprehensive. From the revolving fund can be one method that helps in the short-term financial loans for housing and environmental improvements. RT existence in social, economic and physical infrastructure will also introduce the subsidy on the public to make loans more accessible to low income group households. This has become one of the reflection principle of Community Base Development (CBD). Principles of CBD is to build and change the structure, systems and culture of a society that does not benefit either by the power structure, socio-economic and cultural systems. Development make human society as a central issue (Adiyoso, 2009). In the asset management of the environment and public services, RT involved in management. So indirectly affect the quality of the institutional environment influence in terms of policy making (Lynch, 1991).

The effect on the quality of public services neighborly environment, this will be related to the interaction between people. In the neighboring environment, homogeneity of neighborhoods in a local region with high intensity of interaction that can occur. This then forms the quality of the environment affect each other. Hasting (2009) states that if the environment is poor public services will get lower. This is due to the inability of the economy to access public services.

This paper is a quantitative approach with variable formulation and implementation role of local associations in the quality of residential neighborhoods in the region in three urban locations. The process of analysis includes data analysis RT role in a residential neighborhood, the quality of living environment conditions analysis, implementation and evaluation analysis activities of RT in every kelurahan so that they can see the difference From these observations, will be analyzed how RT has an influence on improving the quality of neighborhoods in the Village Karangturi, Bugangan, and Kemijen.

### **3. Local Communities**

Quality is defined as an environment that interact with environmental conditions and socio-cultural, economic and social situation, as well as where it all interact with each other spatially. Urban environmental quality depends on the quality of infrastructure and proper management. System services such as sanitation, sewerage, drainage, drinking water services, waste disposal, gas, and fuel for cooking, is a physical infrastructure that are essential to maintaining the quality of the urban environment. Degradation of the physical environment affects the quality of life of its citizens, especially related to fear of crime (Taylor, 1999). The impact of all this is because the lifestyle limitations experienced in accessing the supporting infrastructure. This requires the implementation of programs and issues related to the handling of housing settlements in favor of the environmental improvement efforts.

RT form bonds that indirectly affect community outreach while remaining administratively binding society. One example is the community service activities, social gathering or cooperatives. These activities affect the environment because of settlements activities undertaken include a contribution to the group as well as the surrounding environment. One of the local institutions is RT that gives an overview of the local institutions that are outside the influence of the kelurahan. The existence of this local institution is a form of movement of groups of people who need the community aspirations. Basically this local institution is the community itself, while the local institutions such as container aspirations. In the implementation of the development process undertaken RT, the relationship of each local institutions as partners with the same goal of helping the government to implement development. Based on observations made to determine the involvement of the local association, said that 90% of local institutions assess a good performance from the RT. In this case, the people involved have different containers to accommodate their aspirations. RT institutions contained in the neighborhoods not only in the form of local institutions such as local government kelurahan. Community participation in local institutions also have a variety of reasons. Most said that the local institution as a place to socialize and doing activities, especially those related to the environment and RT by 54%, followed by 20% which is reasonable to take advantage of the economic benefits. It is based on the local institutions that they follow are social gathering or savings. The next most common reasons are as a form of contribution to the neighborhoods by 13%.

### **4. Local Institution and Environment Quality**

RT have potensial functions in neighborhoods. In general function of RT is not only related to kinship community (sense of community). If reviewed, RT have a function in coordinating the activities of the community and bridging the relationship between people and the government, because structurally RT is an administrative agency of the most city scale and deal directly with the public. Neighborhood Institutions has a strategic role in relation to society. This is because community activities primarily related to settlements involving RT environment both in the administration and management of social problems in a community in the RT. RT activity is most common is community service cleaning up the environment. Such activities are coordinated so that each RT. RT indirectly be clustered to form their own community to clean up the environment. Voluntary work is very diverse,

which in some RT, this activity is still done on a regular basis once a week or a month. But some do not have a definite time table RT in its implementation.

RT role not only function in coordinating activities of cleaning up the environment. RT was also instrumental in the schedule to accommodate the transport of waste in the study area. Waste transportation system conducted in the study area carried out by RT, where every officer and RT have different transport time systems. RT limitations also became influential in kinship citizens due directly or indirectly provide attachment between people in the RT. RT also provide restrictions on the establishment of institutional PKK (Family Welfare Empowerment) which exists in every RT.

This is evident from almost all people involved in the activities of the PKK in their RT. Based on observations made to determine the involvement of the RT's, said that 90% of respondents follow both of the local institutional level and kelurahan level. In this case, the respondents involved have different containers to accommodate their aspirations. Local institutions that they belong to is a reflection of the purpose of participation in the institution. PKK institutions at the neighborhood level is the most widely followed agency residents, which amounted to 70%. The existence of the PKK is a fresh breath of life urban environment that provides an overview of kinship (community cohesion) are quite close among residents in East Semarang Sud-District.

Based on community participation, a fair amount of people who benefit from participation in local institutions. The perceived benefits can be seen from the usual routine on the initiative of local institutions. Activities are more frequent, mostly environmental clean-up. This activity not only actively carried out directly, still also a form of counseling that is done when it is no institutions.

Benefit local societies as driving environmental health is the greatest perceived (70%). While the benefits of infrastructure development as a whole does not benefit the public, such as construction of roads or drainage only be at certain points. The local community garden planted and the results can be utilized with the local community. RT has a significant role in the housing environment. Activities are coordinated and carried out within the scope of the RT and not just form a system of kinship between people (sense of community), but also activities in the repair and management of the living environment of mutual aid community service or cleaning up the environment or the management of solid waste systems. This suggests that the cooperation between local institutions and the RT as well as local institutions that shelter at the neighborhood level as well as the community has a positive impact in the neighborhoods. In the implementation of development programs in the Kelurahan Karangturi, Bugangan, and Kemijen have different characteristics. It can be seen from the focus of the program is carried out based on community needs and problems of the region. In the implementation of program activities conducted or local institutions, there is a priority of the program is done on a monthly basis.

Kelurahan Karangturi implement environmental programs larger than the other program components. While in the Kelurahan Bugangan greater economic program. In the Kelurahan Kemijen, also dominates the implementation of environmental programs.

The role of RT have an effect on the condition of settlements in the quality of observations. This is due to the improvement of housing infrastructure program that also targeted local institutions to improve people's access to public services, through improved roads and infrastructure. And in turn will contribute to non-governmental care. Based on the comparison of the implementation of the program, in the Kelurahan Karangturi shows that the implementation of a larger environmental program which amounted to 38.46%. It is also happening in the Kelurahan Kemijen, where implementation is done to implement the program reaches 59.26% Implementation of the program is based on participation in the context of capacity development, benefits will need to complete the infrastructure, because infrastructure is built for the needs of the community (Plummer in Adiyoso 2009). The implementation of the results of the three kelurahans, showed that the implementation of the plan in accordance with the greater environmental programs. It can be concluded that the priority of the program is more focused on the need for improvement of the basic infrastructure that needs to be shared.

## 5. Conclusion

Socio-economic programs provide great potential for the community, because with the probable increase in program revenue sources. If an increase in the level of income, is expected to increase the quality of life through the fulfillment of decent housing and access to public services can be provided independently by the community.

Improvement of the physical environment has been helping communities meet their infrastructure needs in accordance with the participation and community capacity building. The role of government as a provider of infrastructure and other public services not optimally meet the needs, because of the constraints will power, cost, and time becomes the main source. However, the role of local institutions are integrated into neighborhoods, communities being helped. The role of RT as a driver and a reflection of the CBD (Community Base Development) with a group of people who moved will have a sense of community are good, such as the ability to take care of its interests in a responsible manner, free to choose and express their opinions, actively participate in the common interest, and community services closer to the interests of society itself. It is expected that for sustainability, RT capable of more optimal synergy with the main stakeholders in monitoring the environmental quality. The tendency of people is a lack of awareness (sense of belonging) to maintain public goods. This resulted in some pretty well-built infrastructure, its condition deteriorated due to lack of care and the role of local institutions.

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